
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5493

AN ACT REQUIRING A STATE-WIDE PLAN TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT IN EMERGING INDUSTRIES.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) to develop, in collaboration with regional workforce development boards, a statewide plan and funding proposal to implement, expand, or improve on (1) contextualized learning programs, (2) career certificate programs, (3) middle college programs, and (4) early college high school programs. The bill describes this plan as a way to provide education, training, and placement in available jobs in manufacturing, health care, construction, green industries, and other emerging sectors of the Connecticut economy.

It also requires CETC to report to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee on the plan by January 1, 2015 and on the status of the four programs under the plan by September 1, 2015 and annually thereafter.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

PROGRAMS UNDER THE CETC STATEWIDE PLAN

Contextualized Learning

The bill defines “contextualized learning” as an educator-designed learning environment that incorporates experiences, including social, cultural, physical, and psychological experiences, to achieve desired learning outcomes.

Middle College Program

The bill defines a “middle college program” as a collaboration

between a school district's high schools and a regional community-technical college that allows a student who desires a more independent learning environment to:

1. enroll in a combination of core high school and college-level courses for which college credit may be earned and
2. attribute all earned credits toward a college or university program in which the student enrolls upon middle college graduation.

Early College High School

The bill defines "early college high school" as a school attended by students who are underrepresented in colleges and universities, including low-income youth, first-generation college students, English language learners, and minority students. This school allows students to simultaneously earn, tuition-free, (1) a high school diploma and an associate's degree or (2) up to two years of credit toward a bachelor's degree.

BACKGROUND

Career Certificate Program

By law, the education commissioner may award career certificates to high school and postsecondary school students who successfully complete school-to-career programs approved by the education and labor commissioners. The school-to-career programs must consist of school- and work-based instruction and connecting activities that coordinate the two (CGS § 10-20a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 1 (03/13/2014)